

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



"News from Next Door"

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2015

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50 cents



PCHS holds Senior Night, 9

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER



PHOTO BY PAM HADDEN

A speaker addresses the crowd last week at a National Day of Prayer event at Holiday Island.

Hundreds unite to pray

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Hundreds of residents gathered together last week to pray.

The first observance of the National Day of Prayer was held on the green in front of the Perquimans County Courthouse. A second observance was held Thursday night at Holiday Island.

The focus of both programs was to pray for specific segments of society.

Winfall Mayor Fred Yates was among the first to speak at the noon event. He prayed for local, state and federal leaders.

"If there is a time for prayer, now is the time," Yates said. "Give us the wisdom, the knowledge to help others."

James Spough, pastor of Bagley Swamp Wesleyan Church, asked for help with



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Connie Ashley, a music teacher at Perquimans Central School, directs students in the song "El Shaddai" Wednesday during a National Day of Prayer event in front of the Perquimans County Courthouse.

families.

Frankie Etheridge prayed for peace. "We ask you to bring peace back to our communities, bring peace and harmony."

A succession of speakers

also prayed for the nation as a whole, schools, America's youth and the military.

Ann Vaughan wrapped up the program. She said prayer alone isn't enough.

"If you don't abide by

what He says, your prayers are in vain," she said.

Other speakers at the courthouse event included Pastor Toni Wood, Pastor Mattie Paylin, Chiquita Sutton, Arlene Yates and Lora Aples. It was organized by the Perquimans County Ministers' Council for Education and included music by both second graders at Perquimans Central School as well as a high school group singing "Awesome God."

The younger children sang the song "El Shaddai" the name of the God known to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and the name used again in the Book of Job.

At the Holiday Island event, each speaker either offered a prayer or requested a prayer. It marked the 10th year for the Holiday Island program. Patricia

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Probe leads to arrests

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Seven people were arrested Tuesday morning and more arrests are pending as a result of a six-month undercover drug operation by the Perquimans County Sheriff's Office and the State Bureau of Investigation.

The arrests stem from the illegal sale of prescription medicines, said Sheriff Eric Tilley.

Of the seven arrested by Tuesday morning, two were from Chowan County, one was from Pasquotank County and four were from Perquimans County. Tilley declined to release the names of those arrested until all 11 were in custody.

Some of the arrests in-

volved people selling oxycotin and methadone and some of the suspects were in their 40s and 50s.

"We met at 7 a.m. with the SBI and the Chowan Sheriff's Office and held and meeting and then went out and started making the arrests," Tilley said.

One of those arrested was a Perquimans County resident who was on the sex offender registry and will face additional charges because he had not registered his address, Tilley said.

Donnie Varnell, the lead SBI officer, said the Perquimans undercover operation was part of a much larger effort.

Varnell said the abuse

See DRUG BUST, 2

Hertford, Winfall settle dispute

From staff reports

A seven-year dispute over wastewater charges between Hertford and Winfall has been settled.

Hertford Mayor Horace Reid announced the settlement Monday night. A written agreement has been signed.

"In exchange for mutual releases of all claims against each other, Hertford agreed to return a check to Winfall in the amount of \$9,872.94 in exchange for Winfall agreeing to pay Hertford \$300,000 in

equal monthly installments over 20 years beginning July 20, 2015," Reid said.

Winfall's agreement to pay is further supported by the execution of a promissory note to Hertford for the same terms, Reid said.

Reid said each town took into account the risks associated with litigating the matter and came to an agreement on terms that are mutually agreeable to both towns.

"While Hertford believes

See SEWER, 2

American Legion gets picture of namesake

SUBMITTED PHOTO

A photograph of William Paul Stallings was donated last week to American Legion Post 126. The Post is named after Stallings, the first Perquimans County resident killed in World War I.



BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

The American Legion Post in Hertford has been named in honor of William Paul Stallings for 70 years.

Now Post 126 has a picture of what he look liked.

Stallings was killed in World War I and Friday two of his grandchildren came from Delaware and Pennsylvania to present the Post with the photograph it didn't have — a picture that one Post member spent decades trying to find.

The grainy black and

white image shows a man in his early 20s with a hat — a man that would be the first Perquimans County soldier killed in World War I.

His story started in 1895 in the Nicanor area of Perquimans County known as Long Swamp. He likely worked on his father's farm and in January 1917 he married Lillian Watson, then 18. Watson was from Elizabeth City.

The marriage wouldn't last long.

Three months later the U.S. declared war and by October 1917 and Stallings

was drafted.

In February 1918 his only child — Irma Pauline Stallings — was born but within three months Stallings and members of the 199th Infantry Regiment were boarding trains for Massachusetts and then a ship to France.

Stallings died July 26, 1918.

He and three other men were killed while advancing on machine gun nests in the front lines.

All the facts on Stallings' life were unearthed and cataloged through the work of Charlie Skinner,

the Post's historian.

In 1991 Skinner wrote a short biography on Stallings. He didn't stop there and he kept trying to find the elusive picture and any other historical records.

In January 2003 Skinner made a notation in his records that he was unable to locate any pictures of Irma Pauline Stallings, the child born in 1918 or her father. He noted if she was still living she'd be 85 years old.

Skinner was 85-years-old and still searching for a

See PICTURE, 2

County workers search for jobs

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the second part of a two-part series on the economy and Perquimans County)

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

If there are jobs out there, many Perquimans County residents are finding they need to commute to get there.

A new data book compiled by the Albemarle

Commission shows about a third of Perquimans County workers drive to Pasquotank Dare or Chowan counties to work. That compares to 12 percent that work in the same county they live in.

Pasquotank County makes up the largest share of the workforce at 20 percent.

That somewhat surprised Dave Whitmer, the director of the Northeastern Workforce Development Board. Whitmire has worked for the Commission since 2009.

"What sort of surprise me is looking at the

Ruritans Clubs raise money for causes

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Richard Davis looks at a medical saddlebag that was likely used by a doctor during the Civil War. Davis is donating it for the Durrants Neck Ruritan Club's auction this Saturday.

A pair of local Ruritan Clubs will be holding fundraising events this Saturday with the common goal — raising money for community groups and helping Perquimans students attend college.

Both clubs will be selling food, and both will offer things to buy. The Parks-ville Ruritan Club will be sponsoring a pork chop dinner and community yard sale at the club building in Winfall. The Durants Neck Ruritan Club will host a fried chicken and barbecue dinner and auction at the clubhouse.

The Durants Neck auc-

tion has a history of unusual items according to George South, one of the members. One year somebody donated an old wooden outhouse. There also have been cars, boats and jet skis for sale.

There is a car again this year, a 2002 Pontiac Grand Prix.

One of the more unusual items is a Civil War-era leather medical saddlebag. Club member Richard Davis found the item and is donating it for the event.

Davis said when the war started, what few surgeons there were rode horses.

"At the beginning of the war, there were 78 (Union)

See RURITANS, 2



See JOB SEARCHES, 2